THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ROUND TABLE

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RADIO IN WARTIME

A Radio Discussion by

- WILLIAM BENTON
- JAMES FLY
- HAROLD LASSWELL

430th BROADCAST IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY • 218

MAY 17, 1942

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ROUND TABLE

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NOTE

The supplementary information contained in the footnotes to the following text, developed by staff research, is not to be considered as representing the opinions of the ROUND TABLE *speakers. Following the transcript of the broadcast are questions which readers may wish to use for analysis and discussion. It is hoped that teachers and discussion leaders may find this additional service of the* ROUND TABLE *transcript helpful in their study of the subject discussed in the broadcast.*

RADIO IN WARTIME

A UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ROUND TABLE BROADCAST*

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WILLIAM BENTON, Vice-President, University of Chicago

JAMES LAWRENCE FLY, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

HAROLD D. LASSWELL, Director of War Communications Research, Library of Congress; formerly a member of the Political Science Department, University of Chicago

* A radio discussion broadcast from Washington, D.C., over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company, Sunday, May 17, 1942, at 2:30 P.M., Eastern War Time.

The ROUND TABLE, oldest educational program continuously on the air, is broadcast entirely without a script, although participants meet in advance, prepare a topical outline, and exchange data and views. Subjects are chosen because of their social, political, or economic significance. The program has no "ax to grind." In the selection of speakers, the effort is to provide a balanced discussion by participants who have special competence and knowledge. The opinion of each speaker is his own and in no way involves the responsibility of either the University of Chicago or the National Broadcasting Company.

RADIO IN WARTIME

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Radio broadcasts, unlike the printed word, know no national boundaries. Wherever there is a radio the words, ideas, and messages broadcast by powerful transmitters can reach. Nations package radio messages and beam them to whatever country they desire to reach. Other nations, hearing these broadcasts, may listen with powerful receivers to variations designed for others or even to the domestic broadcasts of the sender and from the differences in interpretation learn much about the broadcaster. Radio plays an important part in war—at home, abroad, and on the scene of battle.

What are radio's responsibilities to the nation and to the people of America in wartime? What have broadcasters done to adapt radio to wartime conditions? How will the war affect broadcasting? Will the government assume greater control over this powerful medium of communication as a result of the war?

These questions are important not only to those who are intimately concerned with broadcasting but to every radio owner, every radio listener. To discuss the background of these questions and to suggest alternative solutions to some of the problems war has raised for broadcasters, the University of Chicago ROUND TABLE *invited the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to discuss "Radio in Wartime" with two experts on radio and communications.*

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MR. LASSWELL: Today we're talking about the relation of domestic broadcasting to the war. I don't suppose we intend to say

the last word on this subject, but I do imagine that we'll do our best to clarify the possibilities for public policy.

MR. FLY: Do you not think that we should first get broadcasting itself oriented in the field of radio? The radio spectrum is a broad thing. We have, of course, a world-wide radio communication system. In this country we have fifty thousand amateur operators. Our air navigation is guided by radio. Our law-enforcement and intelligence services use radio. Our Navy has an extensive radio communications system. And it goes without saying that the Army is to a great extent guided by radio in its military movements.

MR. BENTON: Yes, I think you can call this a radio war. I'm told that in the campaigns of the Japanese and in the campaigns in Libya the correlation of the air services, the navy, the tanks, and the walky-talkies used by the soldiers is achieved by radio. In the last war there wasn't any radio except the radiotelephone, developed during the war. Incidentally, Mr. Sarnoff, of the Radio Corporation, told me that that advanced peacetime broadcasting development after the war by a decade.

MR. LASSWELL: Your point is that there could be a radio war even without ordinary broadcasting.

MR. BENTON: Yes, it is still a radio war. Even if we eliminate so-called "foreign" or "international" broadcasting, it wouldn't affect the military operations of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and so on.

MR. LASSWELL: I think the most conspicuous feature from the standpoint of world-politics of this second World War is the fact that the foreign short-wave broadcasts are being used as dramatic instruments of warfare.

MR. FLY: I think that is true. They are spectacular, but there are limitations upon the use and effectiveness of the short-wave international radio transmitters. For example, we have some inade-

quacies in our own system. We have just half-a-dozen transmitting stations in this country. We need additional coverage throughout the world and particularly in the Americas. And, then, we have the problem of radio receivers at the point of reception.

MR. LASSWELL: But if there are only a few receivers at the point of reception, it still may be that a great many people are reached, because the man who receives may be writing a pamphlet that he'll circulate in his own country; or he may actually be the head of a rumor-chain in a totalitarian country, which circulates all sorts of news that he gets from outside.

MR. BENTON: The problem on short wave, as you've just described it, is very different from the problem on domestic broadcasting. Short-wave broadcasting in time of war is in effect a method of attack. We don't have the problem on short-wave broadcasting that we have with our domestic radio in a democracy dealing with a democratic people.

MR. LASSWELL: Besides that, I suppose, it's very doubtful if the foreign short-wave broadcasts are good commercial propositions.

MR. BENTON: Our weaknesses should be exposed to our own people and perhaps covered up in our short-wave broadcasting. The short-wave stations are commercially owned in this country, and the people who own them spent millions of dollars on them. And I think it's true that they've never made a cent of profit out of that big investment.

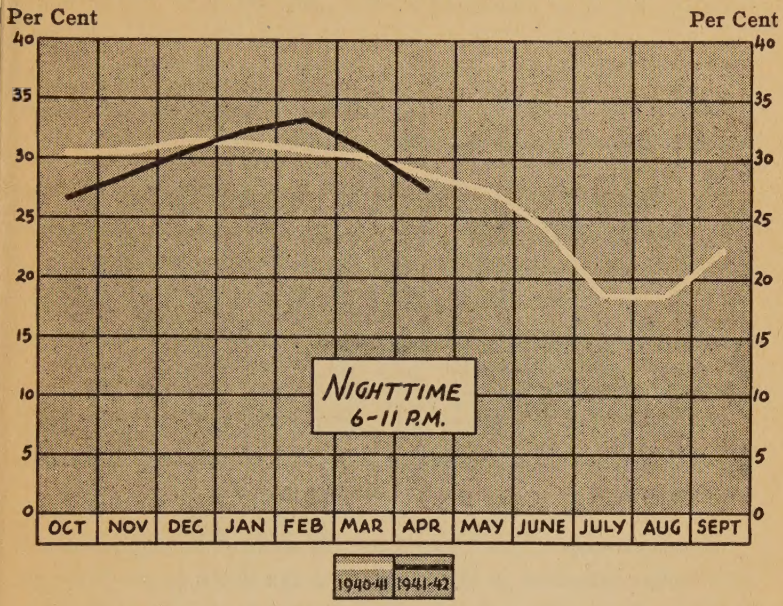
MR. FLY: I'm sure they've never made a cent of profit, and I have my doubts as to whether they have had any substantial income from these stations. It's been all outgo and no income.

MR. LASSWELL: That means, essentially, that foreign short-wave broadcasting is a government function?

MR. FLY: Yes, it is a private operation by American concerns for a purely national public purpose.

C.A.B.* INDEX OF LISTENING

Percentage of Radio Sets in Use, Monthly Averages: 1940–42



MR. BENTON: I think it's very probable that if the short-wave broadcasters are to do the job that must be done in wartime, the government is going to have to subsidize or control them or take them over.

MR. LASSWELL: Of course, this is terribly important, but I think that most of us are more interested in the future of broadcasts of the kind we are having here today—the kind that originate at home and are for us.

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* *Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasting, New York. The nighttime index is based on local times and on ten weekdays in each month. Each monthly figure is an average of the percentage of sets in use during each of the twenty quarter-hour periods between 6:00 and 11:00 P.M.*

Mr. Fly: Surely. I do not think that that can be overemphasized. Domestic broadcasting is tremendously important in this country. We have nine-hundred-odd radio stations. We have nation-wide networks. Nine out of ten of our homes have radio sets; and we have millions of people who listen to our President or to Fibber McGee and Molly. And I think it's difficult to overemphasize the impact of radio upon the American people.

Mr. Benton: I'm told that a man in one of the government offices has developed figures that tend to prove that 60 per cent of the people of this country get their information from radio in contrast to only 20 per cent who get their information from the press and 20 per cent who get their information from both press and radio.

Mr. Fly: Yes, I imagine that is true. And there are seven times as many radio sets, proportionately, in this country, as in the Axis countries.

Mr. Lasswell: Don't you think the main point about radio is its singular influence on the people who can listen to it? After all, the thing that's unique about radio is the fact that millions of people can listen in as participants in major events while they're going on.

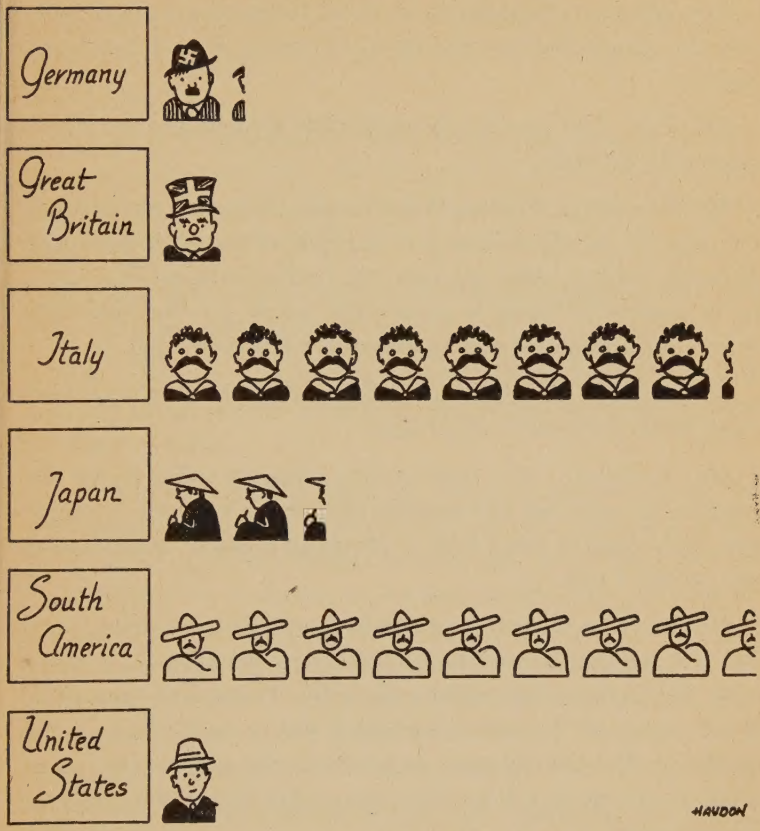
Mr. Benton: It's the only form of communication that reaches millions of people simultaneously, and it's the major form of communication in exploiting the imagination.

Mr. Lasswell: Potentially it means this: Modern radio has made it possible for the whole country to be a small town. Everybody can listen in while important events are being broadcast and get a sense of sharing a great national destiny.

Mr. Fly: I think that is very true. And to take a single example I'm sure that all of us shared Edward's emotions at the moment of his abdication.

RADIO: TOOL OF PROPAGANDISTS

Number of People per Radio in Selected Countries



EACH COMPLETE SYMBOL EQUALS 5 PEOPLE

SOURCE: "BROADCASTING," 1940 YEARBOOK

MR. BENTON: Yes; and even on a simpler plain, in the program such as "The Hour of Charm," the people who listen feel that those girls are charming girls; or, listening to a lovely or beautiful singer, it's possible for the listener in his imagination to see that singer as the loveliest possible girl.

MR. LASSWELL: Gentlemen, shall we take a few moments off for imagination on this attractive theme?

MR. BENTON: Imagination *is* one of the great powers of radio, and the commercial interests have, of course, learned how to exploit it.

MR. FLY: And that simply emphasizes the power of the human voice over the radio.

MR. LASSWELL: I'm sure that some of us feel much more trust in our capacity to judge human personality if we hear the actual tones of people's voices. After all, from the cradle to the grave we get a lot of experience trying to guess what people are like from their voices, and I think most of us feel we are experts at that.

MR. BENTON: The Republicans have envied the Democrats their voice; there is no doubt about that.

MR. LASSWELL: All these things certainly indicate the importance of radio, but the essential question is how this extraordinary instrument is being used in American domestic broadcasts in this period of war.

MR. BENTON: Before you go on to that, I think we should point out that radio can be used for good and for evil purposes. A lie will carry just as far as the truth on the radio. I have long been afraid of the potential "man-on-horseback" with a microphone in his saddlebag. But the real issue, as we discuss the radio of the future, is not its evil use by evil men but the possible failure of its good use by good men.

MR. LASSWELL: You've put your finger on the critical problem we have to discuss. Certainly one of the things that's happened in the world as we know it is this: The very fact that there is a radio has made it necessary for men of virtue to develop radio voices and radio technique. What this amounts to is something like this: There's nothing new about demogagues; there's nothing new about

oratory; there's nothing new about the necessity of talking in interesting and attractive ways so that millions of people (or as many as you can get to listen to you) will have a chance to listen; but the radio makes it necessary for people to develop a very special kind of technique of talking. It's very different even from an ordinary convention hall.

MR. FLY: I think that is true, but you cannot expect it to follow any particular pattern. We have had a number of popular characters that are hardly comparable—Roosevelt, Charlie McCarthy, Father Coughlin, and others.

MR. BENTON: I don't like to call the last a popular character. I will call him a *character* with you.

MR. LASSWELL: I think the essential point is that men of virtue must get silver tongues, if they can, and adapt them to the needs of the modern radio.

MR. BENTON: As we look to the future of radio in time of war, Fly, I want to recall to you a comment you made in an article published recently, which you may have written before war broke out. In discussing the ownership of the radio stations and the frequencies which you as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission are responsible for allocating among private owners, you made this statement: "The possession of the frequency is a trusteeship, which involves more of duty than of right. The right is that claimed by the one person; the duty is owed to the millions."[1]

MR. FLY: I think that is still very true. There is intrusted to the broadcaster the mechanism of free speech. At long last we have speech with a practical mechanism that will bring it into operation as an effective weapon in molding national public opinion. Now, it's

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[1] *James Lawrence Fly, "Regulation of Radio Broadcasting in the Public Interest," "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," January, 1941.*

unthinkable that the person who is favored with a radio license should utilize that for the purpose of selling his own peculiar personal policies and ideas to the public. He has a greater element of duty than of right—a duty in terms of free speech. That is, the real basic function of free speech is to inform the millions of people; and, hence, the duty at the transmitter is really the duty to the millions of people who are listening and does not involve in any comprehensive sense the personal ideas of the broadcaster himself.

MR. LASSWELL: You're speaking now as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and that means that you're reflecting the types of policies that our government has found necessary to state with respect to this very vital instrument of communication. The essential point you're making is that in a democratic society we must rely upon radio to an increasing extent to give us balanced discussion and access to the facts we need for sensible opinions on public questions.

MR. BENTON: Free speech doesn't mean much today unless you have access to the radio.

MR. FLY: Yes. But may I remind you that I'm talking about the control of the policies over the transmitter and I'm not talking about the government or the public's financial interest in the station. I think that the station itself ought to remain wholly in private ownership and private operation.

MR. LASSWELL: So far the essential point is that you don't want to interfere with the present structure of the American radio industry.

MR. FLY: Very true.

MR. BENTON: We've made the distinction between the foreign-broadcast short-wave stations and the domestic stations. The danger in time of war is that, as advertising time falls off, the stations which are now profitable may perhaps become unprofitable and may

have difficulty in continuing to operate. It could even be that, along with thousands of other businessmen in thousands of other different lines, the stations themselves may be coming down to Washington seeking government subsidies or government underwriting, which in effect might mean government control.

Mr. Lasswell: One form that that might take, and it's been seriously suggested, is that the government would buy advertising time over the air.

MR. BENTON: That's an issue that I hope won't be faced at the present time, though I'm a great believer in the use of advertising by government.

MR. LASSWELL: Benton speaks with a frightfully black past, before he covered over his sins by becoming a vice-president of the University of Chicago.

MR. BENTON: You mean my advertising past. It taught me what advertising can do, and the English and Australians are, of course, using advertising—press advertising—very effectively and are paying for it, and should pay for it, because of the cost to the newspapers of paper, print, ink, and postage.

MR. LASSWELL: Well now, look! Let's take advantage of your practical experience and of our own different feelings about the situation and ask whether it is possible to use American broadcasting to better effect.

MR. BENTON: We should start, perhaps, by questioning how it is now being used for the war and by the government. One of the major ways in which the government is using radio today is through what the trade call "spot" announcements. Until the industry itself organized recently to control the generosity of the advertisers, there was widespread criticism. Advertisers would give an announcement to the Treasury Department; then they would promote their own product; then at the "station break" the local Civilian Defense would make another quick announcement. As the next program came on, the Red Cross would have an announcement. Another product would be advertised. There would be five or six consecutive short announcements lacking emotional appeal, and many of them with little rational appeal.

MR. LASSWELL: You saw the agreement that was arrived at the other day to control the number of "plugs" of that kind.

MR. BENTON: It was a very constructive agreement. On the

other hand, these "spots" are not going to win the war. Certainly radio can contribute more than that to winning the war.

MR. LASSWELL: Yes, exactly. What we want from the government in wartime, and what we want to hear over the air, is something that is authoritative and clear about what is needed, what we need to do, and the reasons for it.

MR. BENTON: This is a solemn hour, and it's an hour that our people will approach with dignity and solemnity. There are ways to tap the latent idealism of our people far more successfully than the reiteration of these spot messages.

MR. FLY: I wonder if it wouldn't be an agreeable change from the present practices if the government were to take Lasswell's suggestion and give us a line of authoritative factual reports that will be interesting to the people as a whole because they're the reports of the nation to its own people upon national affairs. I wonder if we would have to rely upon the power of the President to draw an audience, or upon Donald Nelson, for that matter? I wonder if we don't have readily available the most effective means for doing that job, regularly, and at frequent intervals? For example, suppose the government were to turn authoritative reports over to such men as Lowell Thomas and Raymond Gram Swing and Elmer Davis?

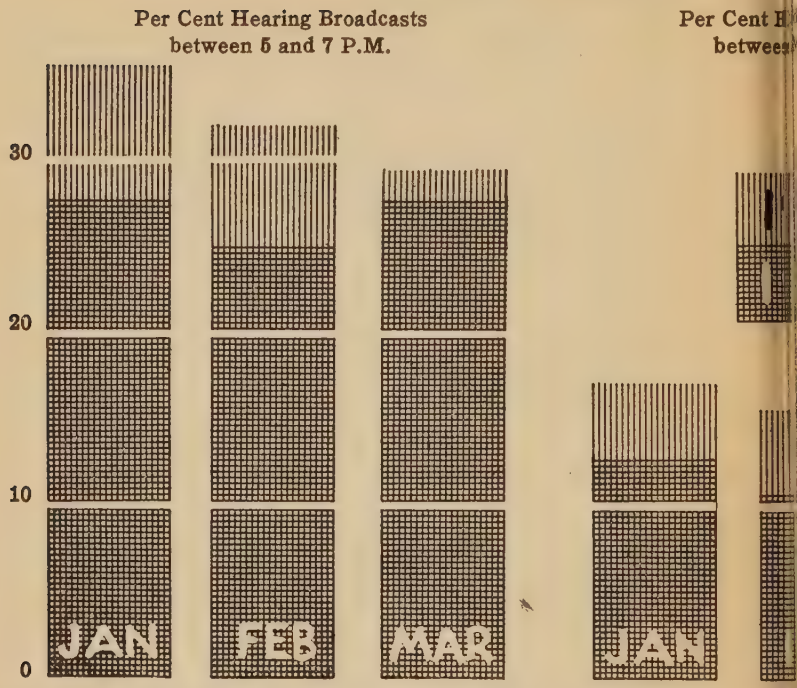
MR. BENTON: I think that's an excellent suggestion, and I believe the government will head in that direction. I think our people would listen eagerly to those reports, particularly if they selected good network time nightly, perhaps for fifteen minutes. Not the same time on all the networks, but perhaps seven o'clock on one network, eight on another, and nine on another.

MR. LASSWELL: Didn't you once make the point that to do this sort of thing you would have to free a good many of these men from their sponsors?

MR. BENTON: The sponsorship of these news programs raises

NEWS-BROADCAST LI

Comparison of Set-Owners Hea



* *Source: Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasting, based upon Wednesday n 1942 totals.*

serious questions that the industry itself sees. The National Association of Broadcasters in February issued special rules covering these conditions, created in part by the war, and applied to the sponsorship of news broadcasts.[2] I think that the analysts, commentators,

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[2] *On February 9, 1941, a committee of the National Association of Broadcasters recommended certain minimum rules for news-program commercials. The following are a part of their recommendations:*

NG: 1941 AND 1942

or More News Broadcasts*

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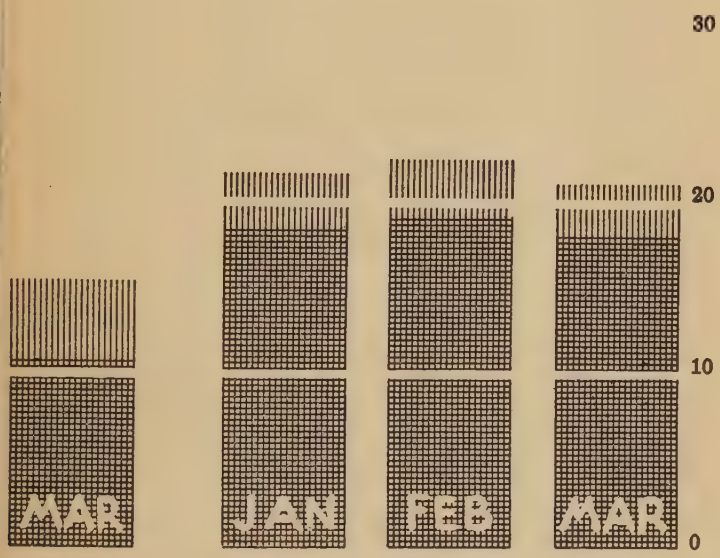
Per Cent Hearing Broadcasts
between 9 and 12 P.M.



first quarter of each year. Percentages for 1941 are superimposed on

1. If possible, let the commercial be delivered by a separate announcer.

2. Don't use news terms like "flash" or "good news" in advertising commercials.

3. Don't say that the news is brought to the listener by the courtesy of a commercial institution. News is brought by news services.

4. Don't preface news with long commercials for the sponsor's product.

5. Don't interrupt a news story with a commercial.

and news broadcasters are handicapped today from the standpoint of the war effort by their sponsorship. First, their pay depends upon the size of the audience they get. They compete with one another in the drive to get big audiences. Second, sponsors are sometimes subject to boycotts out of the way the news is handled by the commentator.

MR. LASWELL: You mean, for instance, that an ordinary news commentator might give some bad news or use a very bad word about some group in the audience?

MR. BENTON: "The Italians ran away yesterday," for instance.

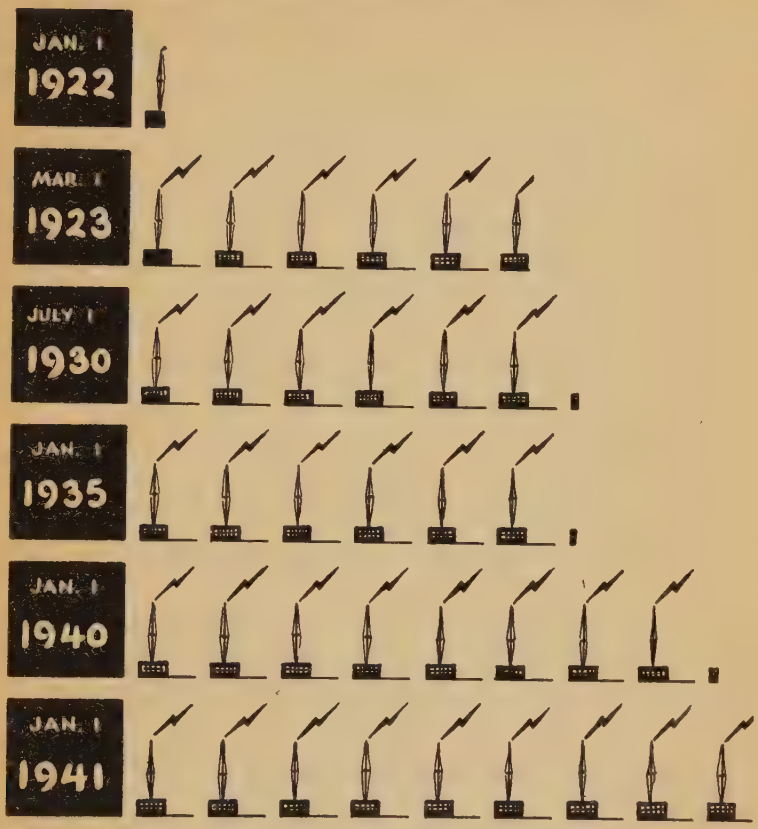
MR. LASWELL: Exactly. Carrying a prejudice that would attach to the commodity the sponsor is selling.

MR. BENTON: That prejudice can attach, and it can exercise unconscious censorship over the newscaster.

MR. FLY: Aren't we limiting this discussion to too narrow a field? There are different sorts of jobs to do here. You've got your government reports, and you've got your news comments, of course; but then you've got your sales programs and you've got your inspirational programs. And I'm wondering if the more appropriate way to do some of those jobs isn't effectively to take advantage of the experience of the radio industry in the field of entertainment? Take over entertainment schedules, if necessary, but, more particularly, take those messages (whatever they may be) to the people in the course of an entertainment program.

MR. BENTON: You wouldn't have to take them over, because the industry itself is eager to cooperate. And Jack Benny, I'm sure, would welcome staging a little skit with Mary Livingston on the fact they can't get a new refrigerator and having Donald Nelson arbitrate and explain why to both of them.

MR. FLY: I think we must not lose sight of the fact that perhaps the most active group of practical psychologists in this country are



the broadcasters. This has been their sort of a job from the beginning. And I would also draw attention to the fact that you have in this industry a great group of writers, of composers, and of actors who stand ready to move, once the government gives general direc-

tives and general objectives, and do a constructive job of putting over those messages in the most effective manner.

MR. LASSWELL: I'm sure every one of us realizes that if we're going to understand what's going on, to get it to our own attention, we must have a chance to hear about it as part of a lot of programs to which we're accustomed to listening. The essential point is to take advantage of these audiences that are already in existence.

MR. FLY: That is the point. Of course, there are additional points. You can't treat this as a purely mechanical matter and repeat too often the same sort of messages, and sometimes, unfortunately, not overly interesting messages. You have to bear in mind such factors as listener fatigue, and you have to bear in mind the need of the people for a diversion. You must take cognizance of those psychological factors.

MR. LASSWELL: Don't you think that, in a democratic society like this, we might make greater use than we've ever made of radio if we were to have the public officials, from time to time, just come and explain, in a perfectly simple, man-to-man way, what some of their problems are that they are up against?

MR. BENTON: Together with the best technicians, as Fly suggests. I'd like to consider what these reports should be and the reasons why I don't think the public is getting them today.

MR. FLY: Yes, but I don't think you ought to overemphasize the abilities of government officials as broadcasters.

MR. BENTON: That's why you've mentioned the professionals, like Thomas and Swing.

MR. FLY: Yes, indeed. I think the broadcaster is really the man who can tell whether it is the right moment for the bluebirds over "The White Cliffs of Dover" or the vultures over Berchtesgaden.

MR. BENTON: Yes, there's no doubt about that. They not only are a great group of creative technicians but probably are more

patriotic than most groups in American enterprise because they are in closer touch with the government and the public.

MR. LASSWELL: We've said nothing yet about a special kind of program, something like this one—the University of Chicago ROUND TABLE.

After all, we all agree that entertainment programs are important for making lots of points, for information and instruction, and for inspiration and emphasis; but in America we're fundamentally committed to the idea that people can use their minds and can clarify the issues that are before the nation upon the basis of balanced discussion. And I think that we need to have some respect for talk—serious, systematic, and honest talk—about national policies.

MR. BENTON: In addition to more programs of this type in the hands of people who attempt to be objective and to discuss national alternatives, there is a great need for educational programs, in part because the young men and young women are being pulled out of our colleges, and there is a real danger today that the new generation may be known as the "Lost College Generation" instead of merely the "Lost Generation."

MR. FLY: Yes, and I think the public is becoming more and more interested in these purely public service programs and in the advancement made in the field of education by radio.

MR. BENTON: Don't we have the choice as a country of using radio and the press either to cover up our mistakes or, second, to expose and try to remedy them?

MR. LASSWELL: That's certainly clear, and my belief is that it's terribly important that we should all take it for granted that, when we appear before a microphone, we have a responsible attitude toward it. I mean that in the sense that we should try genuinely to clarify alternatives of action without trying to say the last word on any subject. Programs like this ROUND TABLE do give the chance for that to be done.

Mr. Benton: May I return again to what these reports are and to why the news isn't being properly handled? Our news commentators and analysts, in their struggle to hit the spot news and to cover the most exciting events of the day, can't do justice to the sugar-rationing program or to the gasoline shortage and the issuance of "X" cards. I believe that if radio had done justice to that subject, there wouldn't be the trouble there is today about the "X" cards and these scandals about the gasoline cards. In the last war, I'm told, without radio and without rationing cards, sugar was reduced to a point of consumption 50 per cent less than that proposed today, merely by proper handling and persuasion of the public.

Mr. Lasswell: I think that there's some basis for agreeing, on the basis of this discussion, that we ought to leave the entertainment function, in principle, to vigorous private enterprise, but at the same time we ought to take responsibility for keeping the channels of opinion and discussion open and clear.

Mr. Fly: And we must not lose sight of the great opportunity we have in taking advantage of the broadcaster and his abilities and his experience in this field.

Mr. Benton: Agreed.

Mr. Lasswell: I think that we have arrived at a certain measure of agreement in this discussion of what our policies can be with respect to domestic broadcasting in this period of war. We have all emphasized the fundamental importance of maintaining a steady flow of fact and of comment and discussion before the American people. We've emphasized the fact that we want to keep the basic structure of the industry as it is, as long as it's humanly possible. Essentially our problem is to recognize that domestic broadcasting is vital to the successful conduct of the war. It's vital in informing and instructing and selling and entertaining and inspiring. Certainly we want to handle broadcasting with as little control as possible.

SUGGESTED READINGS

ETHRIDGE, MARK. "The Government and Radio," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, January, 1941.

FLY, JAMES LAWRENCE, "Regulation of Radio Broadcasting in the Public Interest," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*," January, 1941.

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LEHMAN, A. W., "War Listening since Pearl Harbor," *Broadcasting*, May 11, 1942. *The manager of the Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasting discusses recent audience survey data.*

MELLETT, LOWELL, "Government Propaganda," *Atlantic Monthly*, September, 1941. *The director of the Office of Government Reports expresses his views on this topic.*

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NETTELS, CURTIS, "The Radio and the War," *New Republic*, May 18, 1942. *The radio advertiser and the war.*

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SHENKIN, ERNEST R., "Why Our Propaganda Creaks," *Common Sense*, April, 1942. *A criticism of American propaganda.*

SIEPMANN, CHARLES, "Radio's Big Chance," *New Republic*, January 12, 1942. *A criticism of how radio is responding to wartime needs.*

"What Is Wrong with American Propaganda?" *Free World*, March, 1942. *A group of experts discuss this problem.*

What Do You Know about the Enemy?

You should read: *Japan: Setting Sun?* (*178*) and *Showdown with Japan?* (*189*). These discussions, broadcast before America was attacked by Japan, contain valuable information about the economic strength, political structure, and motives of our enemy.

*

It Takes MEN To Win a War . . . .

You should read: *Labor's Responsibility in Defense* (*194*), *Manpower: The Key to Victory* (*197*), *Labor Policies in Wartime* (*204*), and *Wanted: 30,000,000 Men* (*213*). These discussions contain important facts about the effects of war upon America's fighting and working manpower.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

The answers to the following questions may be found in the text of the broadcast, and page references are provided to assist in locating the answers.

*

1. How many amateur radio operators are there in the United States? Page 3.
2. Are American short-wave stations commercially owned? Page 4.
3. What proportion of American homes have radios? Page 6.
4. What proportion of the American people get their information from radio? From the press? From both press and radio? Page 6.
5. Proportionately, how does the number of radio sets in the United States compare with the number in the Axis countries? Page 6.
6. What obligation to the public does the owner of a radio station have? Page 9.
7. What is one of the major ways in which the government is using radio as a wartime aid? Page 12.
8. What wartime radio policy did the speakers agree upon as being desirable? Page 20.

QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The following questions of wider scope, intended for discussion, are suggested by the broadcast, and answers may be found in the literature on the subject listed in the section "Suggested Readings," found on pages 21–22.

*

1. In what way do the purposes and goals of American wartime broadcasting differ from peacetime broadcasting? How does war change radio's job?

2. What obligations do radio-station operators have to the public? What kind of government supervision of radio is exercised in peacetime? Does this supervision change in wartime?

3. Should the government take over American short-wave broadcasting stations? Or should they be subsidized and left in private hands?

4. Do you think the government should purchase advertising time on the air? How might this affect the radio industry?

5. What are your criticisms and suggestions for wartime radio? What do you think of "spot" announcements? Should news programs be commercially sponsored? Would you favor a series of authoritative government reports?

6. What has been the content of our wartime radio programs thus far? What kind of information and analysis would you like to hear on the radio in wartime? Discuss.

7. What is the nature of the wartime services radio can give? How does the use of radio in a democracy in wartime differ from its use in the Axis countries? Discuss.

The Listeners' Round Table . . . .

Letters to the ROUND TABLE *frequently contain interesting and illuminating side lights on the subject matter discussed on the air. These comments are from letters received following the broadcast-discussion, "Aliens in Our Midst," May 10, 1942.*

*

"Southern Democrat"

The discussion touched upon sabotage here and at Pearl Harbor. One speaker said that if he were Japanese he would not employ another Jap to sabotage—he would employ someone less conspicuous—and ended with asking the other speaker what he thought. The other speaker agreed, and said he would employ someone "like a southern Democrat."*

I am a "southern Democrat," and I resent the implication in this remark. Perhaps he meant to be facetious, but if he did it was not registered over the radio, and, after all, one expects dignified behavior and language in such a discussion as was taking place.

Mrs. E. C. F., Virginia

*

The timeliness of your topics for discussion, as well as the keen analysis and incisive comment that marked the presentation of the conflicting views, has appealed to me and afforded me much valuable information and intellectual enjoyment.

There is one respect, however, in which your program might possibly be improved. At least, that is my opinion after noting for many weeks past a tendency on the part of certain professors and economists on your program to indulge in unwarranted and unjust criticism of conditions in the South and of southern people. These criticisms and attacks have gone unanswered, because most of the speakers on your program appear to be unfamiliar with conditions in the South and unsympathetic with southern people, except Negroes.

To be specific, on today's program one of your speakers, whose identity I could not establish, said that if he were a Japanese agent and wished to

*[*In discussing Japanese espionage and sabotage, Mr. Wirth asked if it would not be "logical that if anybody was going to commit sabotage for the Japanese it wouldn't be somebody that could be as easily spotted as a Japanese." Mr. Colwell replied: "I think that is true. If I were a Japanese agent in this country, instead of hiring a fellow-Japanese to carry out acts of espionage or sabotage, I would hire a southern Democrat or some other person whose motives and appearance would blend naturally into our patriotic picture."*—ED.]

commit sabotage in the United States, he would "hire a southern Democrat" for this purpose. I do not think that the learned professor who uttered these words meant to imply that southern Democrats were a purchasable lot, who could be bought to betray their country, but this was the plain inference that the casual listener on your program might have drawn.

C. D., Washington, D.C.

*

Don't you think your remarks were a little out of place when you said that you "would not hire a Jap to do your work but would 'hire' a SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT so that he would fit into the general scheme of your plan"? That's as near as I can quote you—it's close enough to indicate your opinion of the South.

Listen carefully. If you want to see real patriotism, the purest and absolutely undiluted American blood, come South. . . . .

B. G., Georgia

*

Loyal

I have been one of the many forced to leave California where I was born and which I called my home for nearly twenty-seven years. We had a considerable investment in business and a home in California but could readily understand why the government moved all aliens and Japanese-Americans of Japanese descent. Being in the agricultural supplies business, I had many opportunities of speaking to fellows like myself who are loyal to the country where we were given the opportunity of schooling and the benefits of other democratic ideals, even though at times it seems unfair to be classed as "aliens." It has always been in my mind that it is our duty to help our government in times like this—to do what little we can by co-operating as much as we can by willingly going to places where we are provided for.

I would like to say that it is very kind of you to bring such a discussion before the people of the nation and to attempt to give us an opportunity of serving our country even in our small capacity. I firmly believe that the majority of the second-generation Japanese as myself have the same opinion and if asked and given an opportunity will be more than willing to serve our country.

K. T., Utah

*

No Grudge

Your discussion about us American-born Japanese made us feel much better—that we were Americans and that there are still many people who understand our situation.

We are the only Japanese in this town. People here stare at us and ask if we are Chinese or Japanese. It embarrasses me, as Kansas state does not like Japanese. We have been put out of our living quarters many times; still we do not hold a grudge against anyone.

Here we are doing our share for the United States agricultural administration.

I., Kansas

Real Americans

Today's broadcast was particularly timely and the discussion very instructive. Having lived nearly forty years in Japan and fully understanding their language, customs, and traits of character, your discussion of the proper treatment of the Japanese in America was of special interest to me.

American-born Japanese children, taught in our schools, knowing our language and customs, having tasted the freedom and boundless opportunities of our country, want to become real American citizens in heart and soul. Hitherto they have not had a real chance. They have not been recognized socially and have been compelled to live in segregated communities in order to enjoy any social life whatever. They have found it hard to secure positions in industry and business because of their race and color. Their only recourse has been to start something of their own at which they might earn a livelihood. Thus they seem not to amalgamate with their communities and earn the dislike of competitors. If we are really to welcome them into our national life, we must pursue a different policy toward them. We must drop our antiracial feelings and take them wholeheartedly into our industries and businesses as well as agriculture. After breaking through our prejudices, we shall find them very useful citizens and lovable characters, as has been my experience during several decades of closest contact with them.

G. W. F., Florida

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150. *Can Capitalism Defend America?*
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154. *Dilemma in the Far East*
156. *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
157. *Strikes and National Defense*
158. *Defense Economics*
161. *War Aims and Peace Aims*
163. *Lessons from Europe's War*
164. *The Effect of the Blitzkrieg on the Economic Order*
166. *Roosevelt* vs. *Hitler*
169. *War against the Middle Classes?*
170. *The Crisis and Your Pocketbook*
173. *Our Liberties*
174. *Blueprint for Hemisphere Defense*
177. *Defense: Who'll Pay the Piper?*
178. *Japan: Setting Sun?*
179. *National Unity*
185. *New Frontiers in Education and Research*
186. *Anti-Semitism*
188. *Economics of Blitzkrieg*
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190. *Science and War*
191. *Defense Inventory*
192. *The Philippines*
193. *Little Business: What Now?*

No.

194. *Labor's Responsibility in Defense*
195. *Canada: Neighbor at War*
196. *Civil Rights and "Public Danger"*
197. *Manpower: The Key to Victory*
198. *What Does Rationing Mean?*

1942

199. *Morale: Ours and Theirs*
200. *How To Meet the Menace of Inflation*
201. *Censorship*
202. *How United Are the Americas?*
203. *Are We Overconfident?*
204. *Labor Policies in Wartime*
205. *What Should the Churches Do in War?*
206. *What Should We Teach Our Youth Now?*
207. *Propaganda: Good and Bad*
208. *Civilian Defense*
209. *Taxes* vs. *Axis*
210. *Women, Work, and the War*
211. *The American Temper*
212. *India*
213. *Wanted: 30,000,000 Men*
214. *War Profits*
215. *War and the Family*
216. *Politics in Wartime*
217. *Aliens in Our Midst.* May 10

All Round Table Transcripts Contain Added Factual Material in the Form of Graphs, Maps, Pictographs, Footnotes, Bibliographies, Etc.

How Does War Affect Your Freedom?

You should read: *Our Liberties* (*173*) and *Civil Rights and "Public Danger"* (*196*). These discussions review the traditions of American liberty and report upon the effects defense and war have had upon them.

ROUND TABLE NETWORK OF 102 STATIONS

2:30 P.M. EASTERN WAR TIME

City	Call Letters	Kilocycles	City	Call Letters	Kilocycles
Allentown, Pa.	WSAN	1470	Lima, Ohio	WLOK	1240
Altoona, Pa.	WFBG	1340	Manchester, N.H.	WFEA	1370
Asheville, N.C.	WISE	1400	Miami, Fla.	WIOD	610
Atlanta, Ga.	WSB	750	New York, N.Y.	WEAF	660
Baltimore, Md.	WBAL	1090	Norfolk, Va.	WTAR	790
Boston, Mass.	WNAC	1260	Philadelphia, Pa.	KYW	1060
Buffalo, N.Y.	WBEN	930	Pittsburgh, Pa.	KDKA	1020
Charleston, S.C.	WTMA	1250	Portland, Me.	WCSH	970
Charlotte, N.C.	WSOC	1240	Providence, R.I.	WJAR	920
Cleveland, Ohio	WTAM	1100	Raleigh, N.C.	WPTF	680
Columbia, S.C.	WIS	560	Richmond, Va.	WMBG	1380
Columbus, Ohio	WCOL	1230	Rochester, N.Y.	WHAM	1180
Dayton, Ohio	WING	1410	Savannah, Ga.	WSAV	1340
Detroit, Mich.	WWJ	950	Schenectady, N.Y.	WGY	810
Florence, S.C.	WOLS	1230	Springfield, Ohio	WIZE	1340
Grand Rapids, Mich.	WOOD	1300	Tampa, Fla.	WFLA	970
Greenville, S.C.	WFBC	1330	Washington, D.C.	WRC	980
Jacksonville, Fla.	WJAX	930	Wilmington, Dela.	WDEL	1150
Johnstown, Pa.	WJAC	1400	Winston-Salem, N.C.	WSJS	600
Lakeland, Fla.	WLAK	1340	Zanesville, Ohio	WHIZ	1240

1:30 P.M. CENTRAL WAR TIME

Amarillo, Texas	KGNC	1440	Louisville, Ky.	WAVE	970
Birmingham, Ala.	WBRC	960	Madison, Wis.	WIBA	1310
Bismarck, N.D.	KFYR	550	Mankato, Minn.	KYSM	1230
Bristol, Tenn.	WOPI	1490	Memphis, Tenn.	WMC	790
Chicago, Ill.	WMAQ	670	Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.	KSTP	1500
Duluth, Minn., and Superior, Wis.	WEBC	1320	New Orleans, La.	WSMB	1350
Eau Claire, Wis.	WEAU	1070	Oklahoma City, Okla.	WKY	930
El Paso, Texas	KTSM	1380	Omaha, Neb.	WOW	590
Evansville, Ind.	WGBF	1280	Pittsburg, Kans.	KOAM	810
Fargo, N.D.	WDAY	970	Rochester, Minn.	KROC	1340
Fort Wayne, Ind.	WGL	1450	St. Cloud, Minn.	KFAM	1450
Fort Worth, Texas	KGKO	570	St. Louis, Mo.	KSD	550
Hattiesburg, Miss.	WFOR	1400	San Antonio, Texas	WOAI	1200
Indianapolis, Ind.	WIRE	1430	Shreveport, La.	KTBS	1480
Jackson, Miss.	WJDX	1300	Sioux Falls, S.D.	KSOO	1140
Kansas City, Mo.	WDAF	610	Springfield, Mo.	KGBX	1260
Kingsport, Tenn.	WKPT	1400	Terre Haute, Ind.	WBOW	1230
Laurel, Miss.	WAML	1340	Tulsa, Okla.	KVOO	1170
Little Rock, Ark.	KARK	920	Wichita, Kans.	KANS	1240

12:30 P.M. MOUNTAIN WAR TIME

Albuquerque, N.M.	KOB	1030	Phoenix, Ariz.	KTAR	620
Billings, Mont.	KGHL	790	Pocatello, Ida.	KSEI	930
Boise, Ida.	KIDO	1380	Salt Lake City, Utah	KDYL	1320
Bozeman, Mont.	KRBM	1450	Tucson, Ariz.	KVOA	1290
Butte, Mont.	KGIR	1370	Twin Falls, Ida.	KTFI	1270
Denver, Colo.	KOA	850	Yuma, Ariz.	KYUM	1240
Helena, Mont.	KPFA	1240			

11:30 A.M. PACIFIC WAR TIME

Fresno, Cal.	KMJ	580	San Francisco, Cal.	KPO	680
Los Angeles, Cal.	KFI	640	San Diego, Cal.	KFSD	600
Medford, Ore.	KMED	1440	Seattle, Wash.	KOMO	950
Portland, Ore.	KGW	620	Spokane, Wash.	KHQ	590
Sacramento, Cal.	KFBK	1530			

STATIONS CARRYING ROUND TABLE BY TRANSCRIPTION

Cincinnati, Ohio	WSAI	1360	10:30 P.M. E.W.T.
Milwaukee, Wis.	WTMJ	620	4:00 P.M. C.W.T.

CHILDREN AND THE WAR

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A UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ROUND TABLE BROADCAST

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MAY 24, 1942

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MARTHA ELIOT, Associate Chief, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor

DANIEL PRESCOTT, Department of Education, University of Chicago

T. V. SMITH, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago

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SUGGESTED READINGS

BURGESS, H. S., "Facing War with Our Children," *Parents' Magazine,* March, 1942.

"Children in War: They Can Be Trained Not To Fear," *Life,* March 30, 1942.

ELIOT, MARTHA M., "The Effect of War and Civil Defense on Children: The British Experience," *Social Service Review,* March, 1942.

HOHMAN, L. B., "How Should Children Be Trained for a War Situation?" *Ladies' Home Journal,* April, 1942.

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